



ST MARY'S COLLEGE
AUCKLAND
CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

25 August 08

St Mary's College had Darren Pereira for the first time this year presenting "Shape Your Destiny" to our Year 12 and 13 students. I was initially concerned about the size of the group (190), but I needed to have no worries as Darren captured and held the attention of each and every student for the entire morning (9.00am -1.00pm).

Darren's style is high energy. He is a warm, honest and real person and students relate immediately to this. From his opening words, he had them focused. Our students found the presentation great fun as well as an opportunity to take stock and reflect on their lives and future pathways. He relates extremely well to a young audience – he knows their culture and their language. He has short entertaining one liners as well as inspiring stories. The audience were constantly laughing but also ready and responsive to the reflective moments.

Darren uses music that the students enjoy through a live DJ. Music also provides an inspirational background to some of his carefully selected video clips. And music is used very effectively to strengthen the "yes" of the student decision making peak state.

The majority of our students gave the seminar a top rating in their report back and all wanted to have it repeated. Students came to me asking when Darren would be back within hours of the presentation finishing. Many reported that they were really sure now of what they wanted to do in the years ahead.

Success Integrated was highly professional in all dealings. Darren, himself, was inspirational and motivational. He knows his craft and has the personality and charisma to impact on young people so that they are challenged to seize the day and be positive about their futures. We cannot ask more than this.

The seminar was well worth the financial investment and we are certainly inviting Darren back next year.

Maureen Putt
Careers adviser
St. Mary's College.